

[Volume IV, misnumbered as V — only one issue, June]



A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY NEWS LETTER



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SHORT TITLE CATALOGUE 1641-1700

The publication of Donald Wing's continuation of the STC has been "in the works" for several years. The colossal nature of the undertaking would have caused difficulty in normal times, but has been doubly complicated by the decision to push ahead with publication despite wartime restrictions.

We are happy to announce that Volume I ("A"-England) has now been printed off, and waits only upon the whims of the binders. Under present publishing conditions, binding is proving to be one of the most difficult hurdles of all.

A detailed commentary will appear in our pages once the volume is available. We mentioned it now, however, both because the event has been so long anticipated, and in order that our readers may be sure of obtaining a copy. The volumes are distributed by the Index Society (membership ten dollars per year) or can be purchased separately at fifteen dollars a volume. But most buyers will wish to save five dollars by joining the Society. Memberships should be addressed to Harold W. Bentley, Secretary, Columbia University Press, New York City.

A limited number of interleaved copies can be ordered. They are a "must" for many serious scholars.

Our readers may wish to make sure that their library has ordered an interleaved copy, too.

FLASH !

As we go to press, the first copy of Wing's STC has reached our desk. Full details in the next issue.

MARJORIE NICOLSON ON UNDERLINED WORDS IN SEVENTEENTH CENTURY MANUSCRIPTS

In answer to our query sometime ago concerning the use of underlining by seventeenth century authors to indicate to the printer that passages should be set in italics, we received this communication from Marjorie Nicolson (Columbia):

"The question about authors underlining words in their manuscripts interested me very much — because I had never realized that it was a "problem." When I was working on the Conway Letters I found the practice so common that I simply took it for granted. Unfortunately I threw away most of my notes and photostats when I moved to New York, and so have to rely upon what are now rather vague memories. I can say definitely, however, that Henry More was lavish in

his use of underlining. I feel quite sure that Jeremy Taylor and various other divines whose tracts and sermons I examined all made use of underlining.

I remember trying to work out what More's policy was - if he had any. He always underlined quotations, whether long or short; he also underlined many proper names. He often underlined the first word in a new paragraph. He used italics for emphasis, and particularly to call attention to passages in which he felt he was saying something original and important.

In one instance I collated the manuscript of a short work of his with the printed version, in an attempt to find out in how far the printer followed or disregarded the author's manuscript. (Henry More was always complaining about the trouble he had with printers, and their failure to do what he asked, and I was trying to find out where the trouble lay.) In this particular case the printer departed quite radically from the manuscript in matters of form - including italics, capitalization and punctuation. My impression was that italics to his printer were purely ornamental, intended to give variety to the page. The printer was equally arbitrary in his use of capitals; Henry More himself did not overuse capitals though of course he used them much more than would a modern writer.

So far as I can remember, More's personal letters, which were never intended for publication, are seldom underlined. However in some of his longer formal letters (which are really tracts, and which I did not publish in the Conway Letters) I

think he underlined as he did in works intended for publication.

All these matters are now so vague in my mind that I cannot really offer evidence. I can, however, say with some certainty that I found the practice very common among writers of the mid-century.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ MARJORIE NICOLSON

Marjorie Nicolson"

MORLEY: BUSK POINTS
AND HIERUSALEM GARTERS

Following the note in our last issue restoring to Tom Tomkis the authorship of the "Sonnet On His Mistress' Busk Point", the Saturday Review of Literature made full retribution. In fact, William Rose Benet not only reinstated Tomkis as author, but in a later issue of the SRL reprinted from our pages the verses on Jerusalem Garters.

A post card was also received from Christopher Morley with this message:

"Very grateful to be set right about the Busk Point. I can't remember where (some anthology, I think) I found it attributed to Brewer. As for the delightful Tom Tomkis, I hadn't even heard of him.

And the Hierusalem garters are a find indeed. As I once wrote

"Whether you silk or whether you cotton use
The square of the legs is the squared hypotenuse."

C.M."

DR. CUSHING ON DR. GARTH

A valuable but little known article on "Dr. Garth: the Kit-Kat Poet", was recently called to our attention by Louis I. Bredvold (Michigan) who suggested that readers of this News-Letter should know about it. After reading it, we thoroughly agree, and cannot understand how it has been overlooked by so many bibliographers, including the editors of the CBEL.

Perhaps the explanation is that it was published in the Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital (Vol. XVII, No. 178, 1906, pp. 1-17) and so is off the beaten path of most literary investigators. The author was Dr. Harvey Cushing, later to become world famous as a brain surgeon at Yale. The paper was read at a meeting of the Johns Hopkins Historical Club, December 12, 1904.

Though most of the available facts and anecdotes about Sir Samuel Garth, M.D., are included in Dr. Cushing's article, special interest attaches to his pages on Garth's famous medical poem, The Dispensary. Indeed Dr. Cushing's long account of "The Dispensarian Quarrel," which culminated in 1699, might profitably be reprinted in the preface to a modern edition of the poem.

Garth's name is also closely connected with Dryden's, largely because of the prominent part Garth played at Dryden's funeral. In the confusion surrounding that event Garth obtained permission from the Board of Censors to allow the funeral exercises to be held at the College of Physicians, some twelve days after the old poet's death. Dr. Cushing related how Garth presided at the funeral, issuing a printed invitation (see reproduction) of which only two copies are known. In keeping with the non-ecclesiastical surroundings Garth

SIR,



YOU are desired to Accompany the Corps of Mr. John Dryden, from the College of Physicians in Warwick-Lane, to Westminster Abby; on Monday the 13th of this Instant May, 1700. at Four of the Clock in the Afternoon exactly, it being resolved to be moving by Five a Clock. And be pleased to bring this Ticket with you.

Dyd April 20th



delivered a funereal oration in Latin, concluding with an Horatian Ode, to the great dismay of Thomas Hearne and other pious contemporaries.

Dr. Cushing's later pages contain an account of Garth's life during the reigns of Anne and George I, with generous treatment of the Kit Kat Club. Though this article has been neglected by literary scholars, Dr. Cushing has performed a signal service to the memory of his distinguished predecessor. Both men combined medicine with humanism to the great benefit of their own and succeeding generations.

THE STATUS OF LATE 17th CENTURY RESEARCH PROJECTS

At the meeting of the Modern Language Association last December, James E. Tobin (Fordham) read a very interesting summary of the responses he had received from letters sent out to scholars concerning the present status of their research projects. He addressed these letters to individuals who were listed in the last issue of Work In Progress (1942) before it was suspended for the duration. Accordingly the numbers from Work in Progress are given after reference to each of these projects in case any of our readers might wish to refer to the full title.

Despite the fact that nearly all scholars have been diverted into war services, either in the Armed Forces, or in the A.S.T.P. and other military programs, a number of these research projects have been advanced during the war years. But in the majority of cases, scholarship has had to wait for more prosperous times. We hope that work on many of them can be resumed within the next year.

Paul Bunyan Anderson (Otterbein) has completed his commentary on The Character of the Rump, The Consuro of the Rota and the Transproser Reheard's (1228) and is awaiting publication.

Theodore B. Banks (Wesleyan) has collected and classified some 6000 images from Milton's works and "a large number of non-Miltonic figures (about 2000) from 17th century prose and poetry have been similarly analysed to serve as controls." Much of his book on Miltonic imagery (1231) has been written.

The edition of the Select Prose of John Dryden (1235) by Allen R. Benham is awaiting publication by the Ronald Press; also completed is an article on the structure of Paradise Lost.

As parts of the project entitled Milton and the epic dream (1236), Murray W. Bundy (Washington State) has published "Eve's dream and the temptation in Paradise Lost" (Research Studies, I, 1942) and has a second article "dealing with the Adam of Book VIII" ready for publication.

Robert R. Cawley (Princeton) has completed his research for Milton and the voyagers (1237) and is ready to proceed with the writing. His studies on Sir Thomas Browne (1327) is proceeding slowly, since two of the contributors are in uniform. The edition of Sprat's History (1499) is in note form.

J. Milton French (Rutgers) is correcting galley proof on his Bibliography of the Character in English (364), which is being printed by the Harvard Univ. Press. His item, an unpublished attack on John Milton, (1255) has also been completed. The Life Records of John Milton (1256) moves forward; "I have finished enough for about a volume and a half, but there are

several volumes to be done."

Francis E. Bowman (Rochester) is a Navy Lieutenant. He has done some work on Evelyn's correspondence (1395) and the "project is not shelved."

Lowell W. Coolidge (Wooster) has been tied up with Naval Flight courses and has done little with Milton's divorce tracts (1240).

Walter C. Curry (Vanderbilt) reports that his book on Milton's cosmogony and physics (1242) "is in a sad state of arrested development" because of army courses.

Cornell M. Dowlin (Pennsylvania) has been teaching navigation, but this has steered his course away from his edition of Gondibert (1362) and his study on Hobbes (1423).

Edward D. Holst (Wisconsin) has been defeated by library closings and by the pressure of his work as Director of University Extension. He has progressed somewhat with his study of lyrical poetry from 1685 to 1702 (1172) and has begun a survey of political poetry for the same period, but does not know when he can finish either.

Lt. Commander Claude E. Jones (UCLA) has been checking islands in the Pacific instead of the vocabularies of Butler (1343) and Denham (1368).

Paul Mueschke (Michigan) has been held up on Dryden's critical theories (1381) and Etherege's comedies (1394) and "will have nothing prepared for publication before 1946."

Travel restrictions have held up Robert L. Ramsay (Missouri) who has been working on the structure of Paradise Regained (1277).

Wilbur E. Gilman (Queens) reports that a period of service in the army, and new teaching duties following a transfer from Missouri, have completely interfered with his notes on Milton in public life (1258).

President Roswell Ham (Mount Holyoke) has his edition of Waller's Poems (1503) "with new poems and readings, in an advanced state," but he adds that it has been that way for some time.

Allen H. Gilbert (Duke) is continuing work on Milton's major poems (1257), and is far advanced into the problem of the order of composition of the parts of Paradise Lost. His translation of Orlando Furioso (3454) is ready for the printer.

Leo Hughes (Texas) reports progress on his study of English farce from 1650 to 1750 (1174). His recent published articles have treated the later aspects of the drama.

Watson Kirkconnell (Humanities Research Council of Canada) has been working since 1935 on "The theme of Paradise Lost, with translations of the chief analogues from Latin, Italian, French, Dutch and Old English" (1267). Completed are an analytical catalogue of some 200 works which deal with the general theme, and the text and translation of Adamus Exul by Grotius, of Vondel's Adam in Balinghschap and his Lucifer, of Serafino della Salamira's Adamo Caduto, of Valvesone's L'Angeleida, of Masenius' Sarcotis and several other analogues.

Gilmore Warner (Middlebury) is within "three or four months" of finishing his edition of Milton's History of Britain (1298), but hours for personal research are few and far between as a result of his new position as Acting Librarian.

ian.

James M. Osborn (Yale) continues to work on Dryden with one hand while forwarding Edmond Malone with the other. At least two of his projects are in an advanced state. His annotations of *Narcissus Luttrell* (1445) is ready for the press, and contains more than a thousand items. The first volume of the subject-index to British periodicals (1590), covering the period from 1622 to 1714, "is on cards, and the cards have been alphabetized. There are still odd numbers of rare or unique periodicals to be done, though they represent a very small percentage of the whole job."

William R. Parker (Ohio State) has been busy as a result of his recent appointment as Acting Secretary of the College. Nevertheless, his *Life of Milton* (1274), commissioned by the Clarendon Press, is advancing and several "scraps" have been appearing in *MLN* and *N&Q*. He has completed "a bibliographical study of 17th century play-lists, a fresh appraisal of Winstanley's *Lives* and a new study of the chronology of Milton's minor poems, "which last may appear as a monograph." He continues to collect data on the London scribes of the Renaissance, which some scholars "may wish to know is available." As to the 17th Century Group project of a Milton allusion Book, "I don't think anyone has sent me a suggestion since Pearl Harbor."

Lt. George B. Rodman (U. S. Naval Academy) has been forced by his new duties to forego work on Bacon, Milton, Burnet and the theory of history (1281, 1282), but will have something on sentimentalism in a forthcoming number of *ELH*.

Thomas B. Stroup (Florida), also a Navy Lieutenant, has been unable to further his Restoration tragedy project (1214).

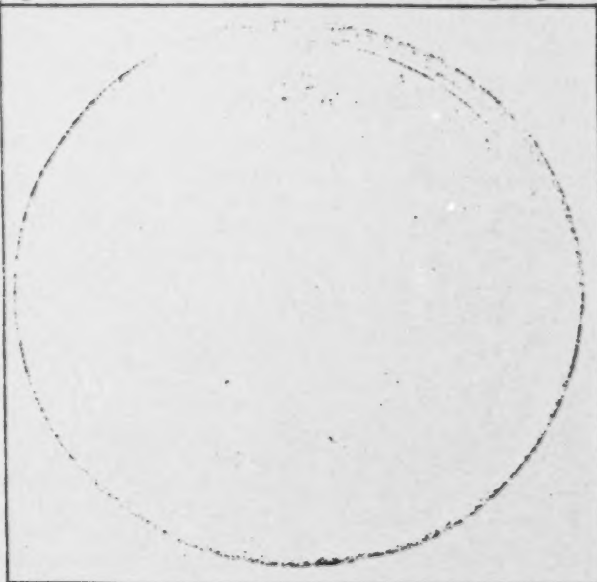
Joseph E. Tucker (Wisconsin). Captain, U.S. Army Intelligence, has done nothing with English translations from the French (1218) since his corrective to the *CBEL*, which appeared in the 1942 PQ.

Passage barred to Britain has delayed the edition of Rochester's poems (1470) by J. Harold Wilson (Ohio State), but his study of the Restoration wits (1226) is "about half finished" and should be completed in another year.

Louis Wann (So. California) has been unable to do much on the essays of Cornwallis (1335).

Preliminary work has been done by three who hope "to reform" with an expected change of schedule. R. H. Griffith (Texas) is hopeful regarding his Dryden text studies (1377), George Williamson (Chicago) as to his Senecan prose (1224) and A. M. Witherspoon (Yale) as to the relations of John Selden and Samuel Butler (1345).

What else may be expected? Several items, and the fact that even this much work has been achieved under present conditions is encouraging.



LANGBAINES'S 1680 CATALOGUE

The latest issue of the Library contains an interesting article by W. W. Greg titled "Gerard Langbaine the younger and Nicholas Cox." The purpose of the article is to point out that Kirkman's 1680 catalogue of plays was probably an early work of Langbaine's.

Like every task to which Dr. Greg turns his hand, this article is thoroughly done. We beg to remark, however, that American scholars have long accepted this 1680 catalogue as being the one to which in 1691 Langbaine referred as "my former Catalogue printed 1680." Indeed, attention was called to this evidence as long ago as 1806 by Thomas Park in the Gentlemen's Magazine.

This is a small point, and we are all indebted to Dr. Greg for his full examination of the subject. But Dr. Greg is such a master of literary research that to find him anticipated in any detail is news as much as "man bites dog."

MILTON MEDALLION

The accompanying illustration reproduces the Medallion that was struck off in 1737 when the eccentric William Benson succeeded in having a bust of Milton placed in Westminster Abbey. Benson will be remembered among the contemporaries of Alexander Pope who felt the sting of his satirical verses.

The portrait is so striking we considered it worth reproducing here, from the copy owned by J. Milton French. We should be pleased to hear whether there are other copies of this Medallion in American collections.

THE JOHN MILTON SOCIETY INC.

Most readers of this news-letter are unaware of the existence of a society whose name is a tribute to John Milton. Originally organized in 1928 as the John Milton Foundation, this group was later known as the John Milton Society for the Blind and eventually incorporated as the John Milton Society.

Its purpose is not to engage in social welfare work for the blind or to promote vocational education, but to supplement the work done by welfare agencies through the publication of religious literature for the blind.

The Society was organized under the sponsorship of more than fifty Protestant churches and societies, but its publications are also distributed to members of Roman Catholic, Mormon, and Hebrew churches, and other non-Protestant groups. It is administered by a board of directors made up partly of representatives of these organizations and partly of other men and women interested in work with the blind. The president is Miss Helen Keller, and the general secretary (appropriately) Dr. Milton T. Stauffer.

The society publishes two magazines and various other literature. One of these magazines, the John Milton Magazine, carries religious articles, hymns, prayers, and Biblical studies. The other, Discovery, is a forty-page magazine for boys and girls. Both are in Braille.

One of the brochures put out by the society is entitled "They also serve." It uses as a frontispiece a reproduction of Munkacsy's painting of Milton dictating to his daughters, the original of which is in the New York Public Library. Beneath the picture is Milton's sonnet on his blindness,

"When I consider how my light is spent." Another brochure entitled "The Sightless Citizen and the Light of the World," with text by P. Whitwell Wilson, bears on the front cover a reproduction of the portrait of Milton from the same painting.

Although there is no direct connection between Milton's poetry and this society, which merely uses his name as an appropriate label for its work, it is interesting to see this evidence that Milton's triumph over physical handicap remains an inspiration, even across the gap of three centuries.

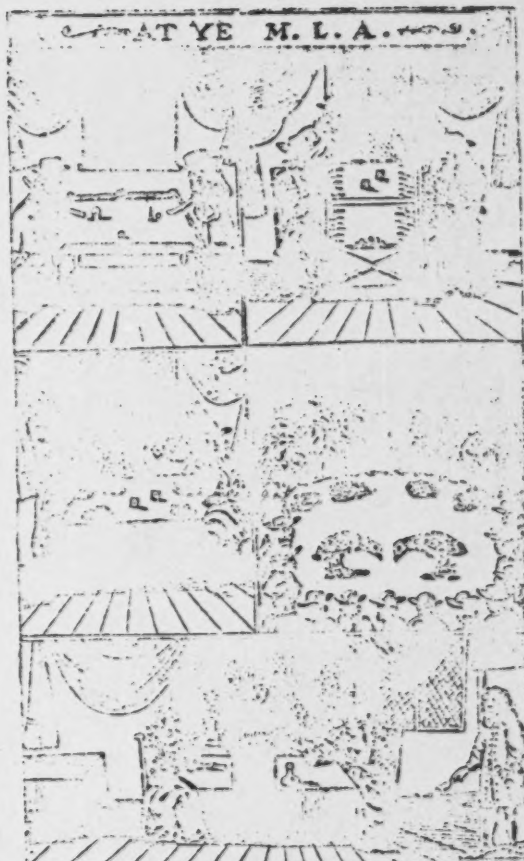
KELLEY JOINS BOARD OF EDITORS

We are pleased to announce that Professor Maurice Kelley of Princeton University has joined our Editorial Staff, and are confident that it will help us to improve the Newsletter. Though Kelley has been devoting a great deal of his energies to responsibilities as Director of the War Service Bureau at Princeton, he has maintained an active interest in Milton studies. His work on De doctrina is known to all Milton students. He has also done work on Milton manuscripts, especially at the Public Record Office in London.

CONTEST

As a contest in this issue we are reproducing the title page of a book that was quite popular in the seventeenth century. Can any of our readers recognize it?

Since the title of the book was engraved at the top of the page it was necessary to remove it, or no



Printed in Hen: Brown

contest would have been possible. One of our editors, with the desire to worry the wives and families of scholars who regularly attend the MLA meetings, substituted the title that will be seen. Its appropriateness can be judged by all MLA veterans. We trust that no offense will be taken by Percy Long or other officers, who recognize that more goes on at these annual meetings than is recorded in the minutes of the various Groups.

The usual prize of a one year subscription will be awarded to the first person who identifies the volume from which this frontispiece is taken.

